

his death, his Editor) had no specimen, and merely reproduced in a German translation the original Latin description in Gmelin's edition; this description is acknowledged by him as being taken from "Linnaeus" (p. 210).

Gmelin's *E. exiliens* is at present known from the Tropical Atlantic only; in fact, from the type alone. I am unable to identify it with any of the species, as distinguished by Valenciennes, Brown Goode, Jordan and his fellow-labourers. The question whether a high dorsal fin with convex upper margin (as observed in our specimen) is invariably, or only in a part of the species of *Exocætus*, a sign of youth, has not yet been satisfactorily settled. But there remains the backward position of the anal fin: a character which precludes the idea of associating our specimen with *E. rondeletii*, *lamellifer*, or the *E. exiliens* of Jordan and Evermann. In this respect it comes nearest to *E. katoptron* (Bleek.*), *E. robustus* (Gthr.), and *E. altipinnis* (C. V.). In fact, I should be inclined to regard the last, which was obtained in the Indian Ocean and near the Cape of Good Hope, as a synonym of *E. exiliens* (L. Gm.), if Valenciennes did not ascribe to it *twelve* rays in the anal fin. On the other hand, the figure which he gives of this fish shows *eight* or *nine* only †. Finally, the fish from Wood's Hole, which Jordan and Evermann continue to figure as late as 1905 ('Hawaii Shore-Fishes,' p. 133, fig. 45) as *Exocætus volitans*, may well prove to be a more advanced stage of growth of *Exocætus exiliens* (L. Gm.).

XIX.—*Some Mammals from N.E. Kimberley, Northern Australia.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE British Museum has acquired from Mr. J. P. Rogers a few mammals collected by him on Parry's Creek, near Wyndham, N.E. Kimberley, and these prove to be of such interest as to deserve a short account. Of the six species represented three need new names.

It is interesting to notice that there seems to be a greater

* In Bleeker's figure of this species the ventral fins are represented much too short; they were mutilated in the single specimen which he had and which is now in the British Museum.

† I am indebted to Dr. Pellegrin, who at my request examined the types of *E. altipinnis*, for the information (received while this paper was passing through the press) that Valenciennes had correctly counted the anal rays, but that the figure was in this respect incorrect.

difference between the mammals of this district and those of the comparatively adjacent Arnhem Land, Port Essington, &c., than between the latter and Eastern Australia, more than a thousand miles distant. For example, typical *Dasyurus hallucatus* ranges from Inkerman, E. Queensland, to Port Essington, but is replaced in Kimberley by subsp. *exilis*. Again, *Chalinolobus nigrogriseus* occurs at Port Essington and at Moreton Bay, New South Wales, while we here have the new form *Ch. rogersi*. The north and south political line dividing South Australia and its Northern Territory from Western Australia would therefore seem also to form the boundary-line between the two faunas.

1. *Chalinolobus rogersi*, sp. n.

♂. No. 9. Parry's Creek. Alt. 10'. 4th September, 1908. *Type*.

A small species, black, with hoary tips to the hairs.

Most nearly allied to *Ch. nigrogriseus*, Gould, with which it shares the more normal shape of the skull as compared with the peculiarly shaped skull of *Ch. gouldi* and *morio*. Ears and tragus about as in *Ch. nigrogriseus*. Fur soft and fine; hairs of back about $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in length. General colour grey (grey no. 6), resulting from the hairs being deep brownish black, with their tips (0.5 mm.) dull whitish, the whole giving a rather striking and unusual hoary appearance to the bat. Colour below similar, but the light tips are broader and more drab in tone, at least on the body. On the wing-membrane, however, which is thickly hairy outwards to a line joining the elbow and knee, the hairs are prominently whitish for their terminal halves, as are those edging the interfemoral membrane. Wing-membranes brown, a narrow whitish line edging the plagiopatagium. A well-marked postcalcareal lobe present. Tip of tail little projecting.

Skull smaller than in *Ch. nigrogriseus* and its brain-case rather more inflated. Other characters and relative size of teeth as in that species.

Dimensions of the type (the starred measurements taken in the flesh):—

Forearm 34.5 mm.

Head and body 45*; tail 34*; ear 6*. Third finger, metacarpal 32, first phalanx 16; lower leg and hind foot (c. u.) 21.5.

Skull: condylo-basal length 12.2; basi-sinual length 9.9;

zygomatic breadth 8·6; mastoid breadth 7·4; palato-sinual length 4·6; front of canine to back of m^3 4·5.

Type as above.

This well-marked little species, which I have named after its discoverer, may be readily distinguished from its only nearly ally *Ch. nigrogriseus* by its hoary colour and the smaller size of its skull.

2. *Mus ferculinus*, Thos.

♂. 2. Parry's Creek.

I fail to find any satisfactory means of distinction between this and the type from Barrow Island, N.W. Australia.

3. *Mesembriomys** *argurus indutus*, subsp. n.

♂. 1, 6, 8; ♀. 4. Parry's Creek; near sea-level.

Similar to typical *argurus* in all respects, except that the tail, instead of being wholly white above and below, is distinctly and sharply bicolor, dark brown along the upper surface, white on the sides and below; it is also rather more heavily pencilled.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 107 mm.; tail 96 (not quite perfect, another specimen 109); hind foot 22; ear 18.

Skull: greatest length 33·5; basilar length 25·7; nasals 11·6; interorbital breadth 4·8; palatilar length 15; diastema 8·6; palatal foramina 6·6; upper molar series 5·5.

Type. Adult male. Original number 1. Collected 13th Aug., 1908.

These specimens are the first we have had in skin of this form of *Mesembriomys*, the type and only known example of *M. argurus* being in spirit. That type was purchased from a collector who traversed Australia from north to south, and it is probable that it was obtained in the interior desert-region, which would account for its whitened tail as compared with the brown tail of this northern coast subspecies.

Mr. Rogers states that this animal has a thickened fatty tail, as also has *M. pedunculatus*, this character being rarely found among Muridæ, although in other groups it often occurs in the inhabitants of desert regions.

* *Ammomys*, Thos. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) xvii. p. 84 (1906) (nec Raf.).

4. *Petrogale inornata*, Gould.

♂. 5. Parry's Creek.

This rare species has not hitherto been represented in the Museum Collection, as the type, described by Gould in 1842, was reclaimed by the collector, Mr. Bynoe, and has now disappeared.

5. *Isoodon macrurus*, Gould.

♂. 7. Parry's Creek.

6. *Dasyurus hallucatus exilis*, subsp. n.

♂. 10, 11. Parry's Creek.

A smaller paler form of *D. hallucatus*.

Size decidedly less than in true *hallucatus*. General colour above paler, owing to the ground-colour itself being paler (approaching "drab-grey"), while the white spots are not only very numerous, but are not so sharply defined, white hairs straggling over from them to the darker ground-colour. Ears, sides of neck, under surface, and upper sides of hands and feet white or whitish, instead of pale drabby. Tail thinner and less heavily pencilled than in *hallucatus*, its upper side lightly grizzled drabby for three-fourths its length, the underside and tip dark brown*.

Skull as in true *hallucatus*, but rather smaller throughout. Teeth distinctly smaller.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 266 mm.; tail 219; hind foot 43; ear 35.

Skull: basal length 58; greatest breadth 39; interorbital breadth 14; palatal length 32.5; combined length of three anterior molariform teeth 11.6.

Type. Old male. Original number 10. Collected 8th September, 1908.

A very well-marked form which many naturalists would consider deserved specific rather than subspecific distinction. The balance of convenience, however, appears to me to be on the side of recognizing in its name that it is related to and locally representative of the species of which I call it a subspecies. A simple binomial gives no clue to its relationship.

* In *hallucatus* the tail is grizzled drabby or grizzled buffy above and laterally for about half its length, the under surface (except the extreme base) and end being black or blackish. The description given in the Catalogue of Marsupials was based on imperfect specimens.